(a) the name of the public sector steel plants which are earning profit at present;

(b) the amount of profit earned by each steel plant during last five years (year-wise); and

(c) the steps taken to check the losses of other steel plants, alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) The Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) and Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) are earning profits. The amount of profits earned by these steel plants during the last five years is as under:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Plant	1997-98 Prov.	1996-97	1995-96	1994-95	1993-94
BSP	701	684	819	639	368
BSL	367	357	806	662	468

(c) SAIL has taken number of steps to improve the performance, which inter-alia include reduction in cost by improving the techno-economic parameters, demand oriented production, improving quality of products, and increasing sales through aggressive and customer oriented marketing, etc.

The Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd. (IISCO), which a loss making Public Sector Steel Plant, was referred to BIFR in June, 1994 for its revival/modernisation will have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

The steps taken by the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) [Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP)] to improve its performance include introduction of appropriate tehnologies in critical areas to remove production bottlenecks and imporvement in the product-mix, etc.

Profit of SAIL

4414. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the net profit of SAIL has plummeted by 74%, if so, whether the reason for reduction in profits for 1997-98 can be attributed to "over" capital section of modernised units;

(b) whether export turn over of SAIL in the fiscal year 1997-98 was as per target fixed; and

(c) if not, what remedial measures SAIL is taking to increase export in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The profit (before tax) of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) for the year 1997-98 was approx. Rs. 149 crores (subject to CAG Audit) against Rs. 588 crores in 1996-97. Profits were lower in 1997-98 because of slow down in demand for steel, greater competition from imports, and enhancement in supplies in domestic market. Further, the profits were adversely affected by increase in input prices primarily of coking coal, petroleum products, power, transportation and higher interest cost which could not be fully neutralised by better techno-economic parameters, cost reduction measures and increase in the prices of steel, etc. Increase in capital related charges, on account of part capitalisation of the expenditure incurred on modernisation of SAIL plants, has also contributed to the decline in profits. However, Capitalisation is as per actual expenditure and in line with normal accounting policy/practice.

(b) The export turnover of SAIL in the fiscal year 1997-98 was above the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) target.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Re-settlement of Slums in the City

4415. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated expenditure incurred annualy by government on the improvement of slums in the city;

(b) what is the nature of improvements carried out in the slums;

(c) what on an avarage, is the number of few slums that cope up annually in the city;

(d) what is the estimated area of Government land unauthorisedly occupied by the slums;

(e) whether Government have formulated any long term plan for the slums re-settlement; and

(f) if so, what are the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Under the National Slum Development Programme (NSDP), Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 250 crores and Rs. 330 crores were allocated for the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively for upgradation of Urban Slums with the objective to provide physical amenities, social amenities, community infrastructure, community primary health care centre buildings and upgradation of shelter or construction of new houses (included EWS houses) etc.

(c) The Government of India has not conducted any comprehensive survey to ascertain the number of slums & slum dwellers in urban areas. However, the sample survey conducted by NSSO in its 49th round from Jan. June, 1993 indicates that there were 56,311 slums (declared & undeclared).

(d) Land being a State subject such information is not maintained by this Ministry.

(e) and (f), The National Housing Policy enunciated in 1994 laid emphasis on "Slums and Squatter Settlements in Urban Areas and Housing for Urban Poor" and envisages the following measures to be taken by the Central and State Government:—

- avoid forcible relocation or dishousing of slum dwellers;
- encourage in-situ upgradation, slum renovation, and progressive housing development with conferment of occupancy rights wherever feasible, and to undertake selective relocation with community involvement only for clearance of priority sites in public interest;
- expand provision of water supply, sanitation and other basic services in slum and other settlements occupied by the poor;
- ensure proper maintenance of amenities through community involvement and decentralised institutional arrangements;
- integrate the provision of physical amenities with basic services including maternal and child welfare services and health care, structured on community participation and involvement of voluntary agencies and management by local bodies;
- promote incremental construction and upgradation by poorer households through access to land and services, through technical support, outlets for low cost technology and materials, opportunities for skill upgradation and access to housing finance on flexible terms;
- provide night shelters and sanitary facilities for the footpath dweller and the homeless.

Right to Housing

4416. DR. JAGANNATU MISRA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering inclusion of right to housing as a fundamental right in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Inclusion of 'Right to Housing' as fundamental right would entail huge investment. It has been estimated by the Working Group on Housing for 9th Plan that an investment of Rs. 1,51,000 crore would be needed to provide shelter for all. The provision